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RESPONSES



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PUBLIC HEARING - 12/11/02

1 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA; WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2002

2 7:10 O'CLOCK P.M.

3 -oOo-

4
5 MR. CROCKFORD: What we did last night, and we
6 will do it tonight. If the court reporter misses
7 something, he will just ask you to repeat it.

8 MR. DUNASKE: Ernie Dunaski, D-u-n-a-s-k-i, do
9 I -- am I correct in assuming we got a two-part problem
10 here. Number one, putting in a generation station, and
11 number two, finding a route to get the electricity where it
12 needs to go? Is that what we are talking about?

13 Are we basically saying, "Can you put the
14 generator station in, number one, or it is a forgone
15 conclusion it will go in, how do we get the power to where
16 it needs to be, which is correct?"

17 MR. CROCKFORD: We will take your comments, but we
18 answer both later.

19 MR. DUNASKE: So what you are saying is we want to
20 put a generating station next to the gas pipe, and we want
21 to get this electricity to where it needs to be, and now
22 you are looking at five or six different ways to get it
23 there, is that what it is?

24 And are you saying that your basic plan is to take
25 Hoover water from Jean Prison. What happen if that shuts

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T2.1 Comments regarding plant and transmission line siting are noted. The DEIS considered six potential plant site locations within the Ivanpah Valley. Initial criteria for plant siting included accessibility by surface transportation, and close proximity to a natural gas supply, reliable water supply, and the Valley Electric Association Pahrump-Mead Transmission Line corridor. Two alternative plant sites were carried forward for further evaluation, the proposed Goodsprings site and the Primm Plant Site alternative.

A transmission line routing study was conducted for both plant sites to develop route alternatives to transmit power generation from the Ivanpah Energy Center into Western Area Power Administration's Mead Substation. Twelve transmission line alternatives were developed for the Goodsprings site alternative; two were retained for further analysis. Four transmission line alternatives were identified for the Primm site alternative; all four were retained for further analysis. Additionally, four plant access options were developed for the transmission line and water supply line to the Goodsprings plant site.

The DEIS evaluated the alternatives at both plant site locations for potential impacts to the environment, society, and the economy. Engineering constraints and electrical system reliability also were considered in the analysis. Mitigation measures were developed to avoid or minimize the effects of potential impacts associated with the construction and operation of the proposed project.

BLM received comments on the adequacy of the DEIS and presentation of alternatives during a 60-day public comment period from November 22, 2002 to January 21, 2003. The Primm plant site was selected as BLM's "agency-preferred" alternative; however, the site became commercially unavailable after the closing of the 60-day public comment period. The proposed Goodsprings site and the No Action Alternative remain under consideration. An "environmentally-preferred" alternative will be selected in the Record of Decision.

T2.1

T2.2



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1 down? What is your ultimate plan for cooling water for
 2 that generation station? Do you have one?

3 MR. CROCKFORD: We will answer that later. This
 4 part is for comments.

5 MR. SCHNEIDERMAN: Wade Schneiderman, W-a-d-e
 6 S-c-h-n-e-i-d-e-r-m-a-n, with natural gas being about the
 7 cleanest fuel there is, why all the ammonia and everything
 8 to clean the exhaust? Are they not going to have the
 9 turbines? Do they not burn that clean naturally? Because
 10 I know there has never been any environmental problems at
 11 any of the plants in town other than the problems they had
 12 with the cooling towers, alkali and up.

13 Are you foreseeing the same thing, that is why
 14 they have to reclean the air, or what? And what about on
 15 your cooling tower, are you going to use water? No, so you
 16 won't have all the steam and everything that you get off
 17 the other steam plants and stuff?

18 MR. DAVIS: It is a simple answer.

19 MR. CROCKFORD: We will defer lastly. We will
 20 comment upon that in the last section.

21 MR. SCHNEIDERMAN: It is going in -- this is the
 22 most favorable location, correct, up there by Good Springs?

23 MR. DAVIS: We believe so.

24 MR. SCHNEIDERMAN: I like the idea that it is
 25 going to be shielded by the mountains myself, personally,

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T2.2 As stated in the DEIS, 50 acre-feet per year (afy) is needed for plant process water. The Southern Nevada Correctional Center (SNCC) is expected to produce a minimum of 35 afy that is generated from a low-security inmate population of approximately 240. At present, it is anticipated that the low-security inmate population will remain constant and that the prison will not reopen until at least 2008. Additional water would be acquired from a yet undisclosed groundwater source until the prison population increases to a level to fully-provide the needed water. There is no plan to use surface water from Hoover Dam or the Colorado River.

T2.3 As stated in the DEIS (page 5-81), ammonia will be used as part of the Selective Catalytic Reduction system for nitrogen oxides (NO_x) control. Although anhydrous ammonia could be used, the project proponent has committed to the use of aqueous ammonia (DEIS, page 5-61). Therefore, ammonia stored at the facility would be at concentrations and quantities below those that would present a health and safety hazard.

T2.4 BLM has selected the Primm site alternative as the "agency-preferred" alternative; however, following closing of the public comment period, the Primm site became commercially unavailable. Therefore, the proposed Goodsprings site and the No Action Alternative remain under consideration. BLM will select an "environmentally-preferred" alternative in the Record of Decision.

T2.5 BLM will consider your comment regarding the proposed Goodsprings site.

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1 those foothills over there, you know. Everybody looks at
 2 the way mountain is now, and we still bought property out
 3 here; so from what I have seen here, it is not going to
 4 make that much of a difference.

T2.6

5 The only thing is what about future expansion? Is
 6 there anything planned for up in that area?

7 MR. DAVIS: This is it.

8 MR. SCHNEIDERMAN: That's it, a one-time shot.

9 MR. CROCKFORD: Thank you.

10 MS. BENNER: Sorry. I have a bad back too.

T2.7

11 Carol Benner, C-a-r-o-l B-e-n-n-e-r, I am just
 12 curious about the traffic, and you are talking about
 13 possibly two roads going in, and I was wondering how our
 14 the traffic would be impacted on State Route 161.

T2.8

15 You answered my question earlier, I believe, about
 16 would there be any discharge from the plant. I would just
 17 like that clarified.

18 MR. CROCKFORD: Thank you.

19 Sir?

20 MR. DALEY: Daniel Daley, D-a-l-e-y, presently
 21 working at the Bighorn project down there with Relying
 22 Energy.

T2.9

23 Is this an alternative, either here or there, up
 24 to the hills here or whatever you suggest and things like
 25 that, and has there been any studies as far as the

T2.6 Diamond Generating Corporation has stated that no future expansion of the Ivanpah Energy Center project is planned.

T2.7 As noted above, the DEIS states that during plant construction, there would be an increase in traffic along SR 161 and Sandy Valley Road as well as some decrease in levels of service at major intersections. Mitigation measures to reduce the level of impacts to traffic and traffic safety along these routes would be implemented (refer to the response in Comment T1.1 above).

T2.8 There will be no discharge of water or solid waste from the plant site. As stated in the DEIS (page 5-61), "All wastes generated from (plant operations) would be transported off-site for disposal at approved disposal sites or transported for recycling through approved vendors and suppliers."

T2.9 The Goodsprings Plant Site is within a mixed scrub-mixed succulent vegetation community (DEIS, page 4-13). Plant construction would result in the permanent loss of over 30 acres of the community and the temporary loss of more than additional 10 acres. The plant site and temporary laydown area will require the removal of numerous Joshua trees that would not be affected if Ivanpah Energy Center were be constructed at the Primm Plant Site. It is acknowledged that loss of Joshua trees will result in the associated loss of Yucca moth numbers that exist in a symbiotic relationship with the trees. Decreased numbers of the moth will have secondary impacts to species that prey on the moth.

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T2.10

T2.11

T2.12

1 disturbance of Joshua trees above the 2,800 foot level that
 2 would happen in the Good Springs Court or versus the
 3 Bighorn versus the Joshua trees and the Canuba moss that
 4 you would be disturbing versus Good Springs, and would this
 5 involve organized labor to ensure jobs for Nevadans in
 6 Nevada?

7 MR. CROCKFORD: Okay. Thank you. There has to be
 8 somebody else who wants to say something.

9 MS. BENNER: Carol Benner, could I not stand up
 10 this time?

11 Are we being asked to give our -- how we feel
 12 about the locations too?

13 MR. CROCKFORD: Any comment you want to make.

14 MS. BENNER: I'll save that for my --

15 MR. CROCKFORD: Any comments if you want to talk
 16 about the environmental impact statement, you can talk
 17 about that. If we missed something, be sure to say we
 18 missed this. I heard some things tonight that I am going
 19 to look for when I get back; so be sure if we missed
 20 something, we need to know it.

21 MR. DALEY: Wait. Wait. I would like to bring it
 22 up one more time, because I have an interest with the
 23 Joshua trees because they only happened in the Mojave
 24 Desert and disturbance, you know -- and their placement and
 25 things like that, but you really can't recreate what's

T2.10 As stated in the DEIS, construction of the plant and ancillary facilities would result in a short-term beneficial impact to employment. Construction personnel would be hired locally from the Las Vegas area and possibly from the communities of Goodsprings and Sandy Valley. Approximately 16 new jobs would be created for plant operations.

T2.11 Public participation is an important element in the NEPA process. The process provides numerous opportunities for public communication with agency decision-makers about proposed actions. The BLM and Western Area Power Administration encourage comments from the public regarding the adequacy of the Ivanpah Energy Center DEIS and the alternatives evaluated and presented.

T2.12 Refer to T2.9 (above).

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T2.13

T2.14

T2.15

T2.13 As stated in the DEIS, approximately 16 new employees would operate the plant rotating on three shifts; therefore, impacts to transportation would be negligible during plant operations.

T2.14 As noted above in the response to Comment #T2.6, Diamond Generating Corporation has stated that no future expansion of the Ivanpah Energy Center project is planned.

T2.15 Your comments regarding the Primm Plant site alternative discussed in the DEIS is on the record; however, as mentioned above, the Primm Plant site became commercially unavailable following closing of the public comment period.



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1 project is not approved, since I believe that no decision
 2 has been made, and that is an assumption, since we haven't
 3 heard, but it would be less of an impact in the long run,
 4 and it might provide better services to the I-15 -- along
 5 the I-15 corridor that is forthcoming versus being stuck
 6 out on the side of the hill away from that -- those
 7 particular areas.

8 MR. CROCKFORD: Don't stop giving comments.

T2.16

9 MR. DALEY: One more time, again, I mean, you
 10 know, we are working at the Primm site, and we are moving
 11 along pretty good, and I don't see no reason to expand that
 12 site rather than to come in and disturb anything up this
 13 way into this valley.

T2.16 Your preference regarding the Primm Plant site alternative is noted.

T2.17

14 I mean, if you are talking about an ecological
 15 impact statement, I mean, you know, the lay-down yard for
 16 Bighorn is -- is the proposed site for the next expansion,
 17 and that soil has been disturbed, and I personally am
 18 concerned with the Joshua trees, because -- and I have a
 19 personal interest in those trees, and there are no trees on
 20 that side of the valley. So if you want to come in here
 21 and rip them up and tear them out, you are just going to be
 22 part of an ecological impact that, you know -- Bighorn is
 23 the place to go.

T2.17 BLM has selected the Primm Plant Site as the "agency-preferred alternative." However, following closing of the public comment period, the Primm Plant site alternative became commercially unavailable; therefore, the proposed plant site at Goodsprings and the No Action Alternative remain under consideration. BLM will select an "environmentally-preferred" alternative in the Record of Decision.

T2.18

24 MR. BACHER: You are worried about visual impact
 25 on this side, you conveniently put it behind two hills so

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T2.19

1 it wouldn't have that type of effect.

2 Actually, the Primm site, there is no visual

3 impacts going to be felt, because you have already got

4 buildings down there and another site similar; so expanding

5 that, people would expect to see it.

6 MS. BENNER: I'm in agreement. I think it should

7 go in Primm.

8 MR. CROCKFORD: Any more comments? If not, we are

9 going to shut down our comment period, official hearing of

10 the comments and remind you that formal hearing type is

11 closed now, and keep in mind that the comment period is

12 open until January 21st.

13 If you have the dates up through -- the 20th is a

14 holiday; so it is going to be January 21st, 22nd.

15 The Environmental Protection Agency is published

16 on November 22, 2002. When they put it in there, they said

17 the comment period closes on January -- it was incorrect --

18 the first part of January; so we talked to them, wrote them

19 a letter, and they are going to -- they already had put in

20 a correction and it coincides with ours. They had given

21 something like 40 days. It was not correct so we brought

22 their attention to that; so you have a 60-day comment

23 period, and it started the 22nd; so you have 60 days, and

24 then we will pull comments back together, and we will come

25 back out.

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T2.18 Your comments regarding visual impacts to both the Goodsprings Plant site and the Primm Plant site are noted. The visual impacts analysis in the DEIS reported no significant impacts to visual resources resulting from construction of the plant facility or associated transmission lines at either plant site location.

T2.19 BLM has selected the Primm Plant Site as the "agency-preferred alternative." However, following closing of the public comment period, the Primm Plant site alternative became commercially unavailable; therefore, the proposed plant site at Goodsprings and the No Action Alternative remain under consideration. BLM will select an "environmentally-preferred" alternative in the Record of Decision.

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1 Tomorrow night we are going to be in Sandy Valley,
2 same time, same show.

3 MS. ROBERTS: Good Springs.

4 MR. CROCKFORD: Excuse me. Good Springs.

5 And this is on the website. I can give you the
6 web address. If anybody wants the web address, I won't
7 tell it to you now, because it is really long. I have it
8 written down here. If you want to copy it down here, and
9 if you want to get on the Internet and look, it is there.

10 There is a word search where you can put in the
11 dates and search for the word items involved, and you can
12 pull up the three federal registered notices that are
13 there.

14 With that, if you want to talk to the court
15 reporter to make sure he has your name right, that is fine.
16 Otherwise we will shut him down, and we will try to answer
17 some of the questions that you asked, because I think that
18 they are answered very easily.

19 (End of proceedings.)
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